

Masaaki YOKOYAMA, *et al.*  
Atty. Dkt.: Q97512  
Preliminary Amendment  
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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are pending in the above-referenced Application. The claims have been amended to eliminate the multiple dependencies thereof. The public should be advised that the present Preliminary Amendment is not considered or intended to be a narrowing amendment surrendering any equivalents.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.


Respectfully submitted,

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